

EXHIBIT 6

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Four mildly allergic asthmatics with a duration of asthma of more than 2 years were included in the study after informed consent. On day 0 allergen was installed into the right lower (B7 right) and right middle lobe (B5 right) of the lung. 42 hours later a BAL was performed and bronchial biopsies were taken at the site of allergen provocation. Immediately after sampling, the BAL fluid was analyzed by flow cytometry. The expression of ICOS on bronchoalveolar T cells, identified with the CD3-specific monoclonal antibody (mAb) OKT 3, was determined by double fluorescence flow cytometry using the ICOS-specific mAb F44. The bronchial biopsies obtained from the same individuals were snap-frozen immediately after sampling. Cryostat sections obtained from the bronchial tissue were analyzed for ICOS-positive T cells by immunohistology using mAb F44 and the APAAP technique.

In addition to this study, bronchial biopsy tissue from another four allergic asthmatics were analyzed by immunohistology.